

Bet, B

Tav, T

Shin, Sh

ש ת ב

VOWEL - AH

Mem, M

מ

Lamed, L

Kaf, K

Hey, H

ה פ ל

Reysh, R

Chaf, Ch

כ ר

Vet, V

Daled, D

ד ב

Alef, silent

Vav, V

ו א

Koof, K

Tzadee, TZ

צ ק

Vowel - EE (sleep), sometime followed by yud (y) like "monkey"

י

Ayin (silent)

ע

Nun, N and FINAL Nun (also N but only in last position in word)

ן נ

Chet, CH

ח

Yud, Y

י

FINAL Mem, M

ם

VOWEL - O (bone, go)

ו

Tet, T

ט

VOWEL - EH (bed, met)

׃ ׃

Pay, P

Samech, S

ס פ

Fay, F

פ

FINAL Tzadee, TZ

VOWEL - AY (play, may)

׃ ׃ ץ

Sin, S

ש

Gimel, G

ג

VOWEL - OOH (pooh, pool)

׃ ׃ ן

Zayin, Z

ז

Final Chaf (CH or CHA)

ך ך

Introduction to Hebrew

Welcome! You are beginning the exciting journey of reading Hebrew! This was the original language of our people, and the ability to read Hebrew connects us to our heritage, our ancestors, and helps us to unlock the secret wisdom of the Torah.

While reading Hebrew is not the only element of becoming a B-Mitzvah, it is an honor and a privilege, as well as one of the most challenging aspects of your journey to your B-Mitzvah.

BUT - if you follow my instructions closely AND you put in the time to practice, you will find this process to be WAY easier than you might have imagined.

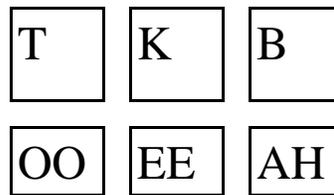
To give you a few helpful tips:

Hebrew is easy because it is pronounced EXACTLY the way you see it. Once you learn the letters, you will be well on your way to being an excellent Hebrew reader.

In Hebrew, we have consonants and vowels, just like in English. And we also have syllables, which are formed from the COMBINATION of a consonant AND a vowel. (such as KA, BE, PO, etc.)

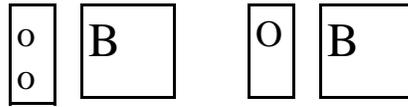
Consonants and vowels USUALLY join together on top of one another, with consonant on top and vowel on bottom, but also are often found side by side. In Hebrew we read from right to left.

So - In your first lesson, you will be learning the 1st consonant - BET, which makes the letter B sound. And you will be learning 2 vowels, that sound exactly alike, and they are the AH vowels. When we combine B+AH we get = BAH
You will see the BET is on top and the AH vowel is on the bottom. So we read from top to bottom, moving from right to left. See example below



This equals: BAH-KEE-TOO

The square above is the Consonant and the rectangle below is the vowel



But in the above example, the consonant and vowel are NEXT to each other.
The above example is pronounced: BO BOO

In the chart above, the letters **highlighted in yellow** are all of the vowels.
Letters highlighted in green are FINAL versions of letters (Mem, Nun, Tzadee, Chaf, and Fay) they appear ONLY in the final position of a word, but sound exactly like their “regular” letters. The remaining letters are all consonants.

****Remember - EVERY syllable is formed by a combination of a consonant and a vowel!**

The last thing to remember is that sometimes, a consonant ends a word WITHOUT a vowel underneath. Then, we use that consonant to “close the door” on the previous syllable.

i.e. BA+B = BAB (pronounced BOB, like the name)

notice how we do not make any open mouth sound after that final b sound. Just like we say “BOB” we close the sound with only a consonant sound.

Our goal is to have you reading Hebrew very quickly - in only 8-9 weeks, so this will go very quickly if you keep up your practice!

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PRACTICE?

Well, the more you listen and repeat the words in your lessons, the faster you will learn, but an average student will learn perfectly with 20-30 minutes of practice DAILY - 5-7 days a week. **** Remember - learning does NOT occur in the lesson with me! I am your coach - I am here to give you feedback, and to give you tools to learn, when learning feels challenging to you. But YOUR daily practice is where learning occurs.** If you show up at your lesson and have NOT done the required work - you will forfeit your lesson until you have completed your assigned material. Since this is not the most FUN part of your journey, it is my goal to get you through it as quickly as possible - so let’s get ready and get going!

We have work to do!

In order to complete your Hebrew reading in only 8 weeks, you will have to average 3-5 lessons per week, depending on how many letters are in a lesson.

You will be using the website at www.behrmanhouse.com
Once you land there, click on the center image (Students) and the click on (Practice and Read Hebrew)

This will take you to a chart that looks like this:

CLICK HERE	KEY WORD	LESSON	CLICK HERE	KEY WORD	LESSON
ו	תורה	14	ש	שבת	1
ט	טלית	15	מ	שמש	2
א	אמת	16	ל	כלה	3
פ	פסח	17	ר	ברכה	4
פ	שופר	18	ב	הבדלה	5
ע	עץ חיים	19	א	ואהבת	6
ש	ישראל	20	ק	צדקה	7
ג	חג שמחה	21		מצוה	8
ק	קדוש	22	ע	שמע	9
ז	מזוזה	23	נ	נביא	10
ב	ברוך	24	ח	חלה	11
א	אלך	25	י	עליה	12
			ל	לחיים	13

Our weekly schedule should progress as follows:

Week 1: Lessons 1 & 2

Week 2: Lessons 3-5

Week 3: Lessons 6-9

Week 4: Lessons 10-14

Week 5: Lessons 15-18

Week 6: Lessons 19-22

Week 7: Lessons 23-25

Week 8: Practice and Review

See that? Just 8 weeks to learning Hebrew, and we will begin the journey into prayer, and learning some very important Hebrew words that will help you understand your heritage, where you came from, and what it means to be Jewish.

I am really looking forward to working with you and wish you all the best in your B-Mitzvah journey.

If you need me: my email is debbi@mypersonalcantor.com

my cell is 954-850-0453

You can text me, email me, or call me - just be sure to identify yourself so I know who you are! I'm here to help and make this a very exciting, enjoyable time!

Mazel Tov!